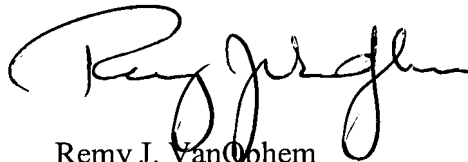


therefore, respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is not persuaded of the patentability of the claims as amended herein, he is respectfully requested to enter the amendment for purposes of appeal.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fee associated with this amendment to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 22-0212. If the Examiner has any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (248) 362-1210.

Respectfully submitted,

VANOPHEM & VANOPHEM, P.C.



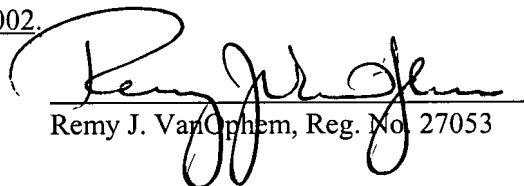
Remy J. VanOphem
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 27053

755 W. Big Beaver Rd.
Suite 1313
Troy, MI 48084
(248) 362-1210
Attorney Docket No. FTP139B US

Certificate under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 2, 2002.

Date: December 2, 2002



Remy J. VanOphem, Reg. No. 27053